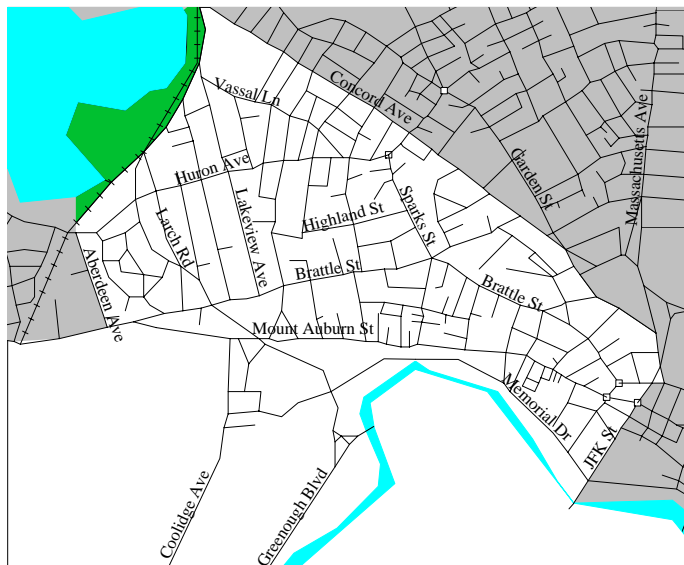
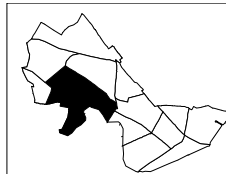


# NEIGHBORHOOD 10

## WEST CAMBRIDGE



**BOUNDARIES:** bounded by the Charles River, JFK Street, Garden Street, Concord Avenue, Fresh Pond, Aberdeen Avenue, and the Watertown line

**POPULATION:** 8,266 residents  
3,887 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$54,656

Neighborhood #10 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 4 (2 officers) and Cars 10R and 13R (1-officer cars). It also includes walking routes 10A, 10B, 10C, and Harvard 16.

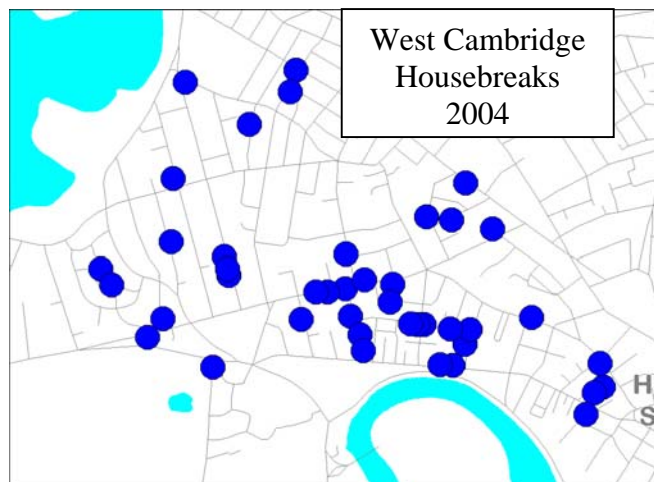
### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2000 - 2004

CRIME	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Housebreaks	21	41	35	47	47
Street Robbery	7	10	14	9	7
Auto Theft	18	28	18	30	38
Larceny from MVs	61	33	51	53	68
Malicious Destruction	72	89	60	66	62
Drug	10	10	9	3	7

### 2004 YEAR END REVIEW

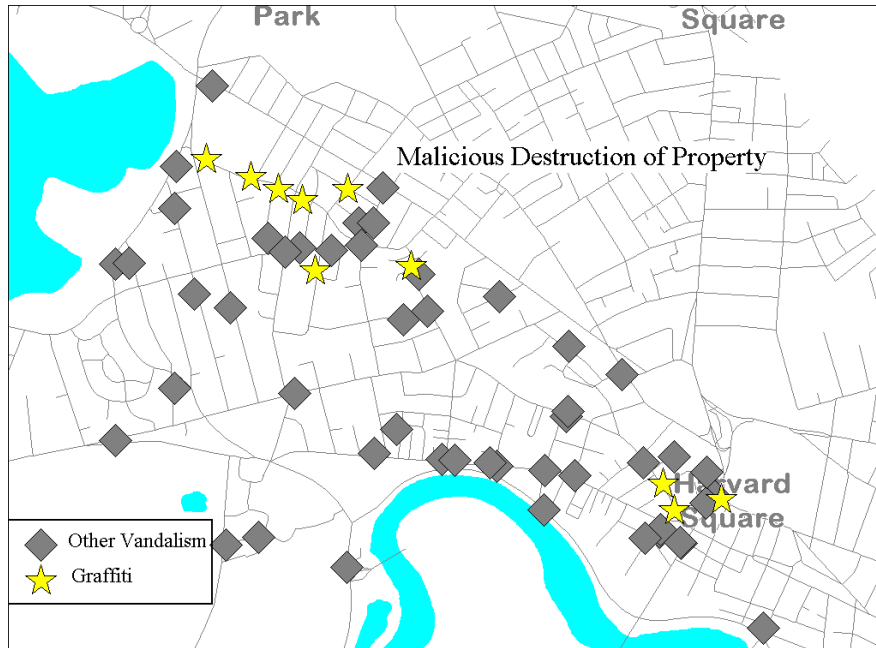
- No **street robberies** were reported during the first quarter of the year in West Cambridge. Four of the reported incidents took place in the summer. In two August robberies the perpetrators targeted victims using ATMs, but the incidents were unrelated. Of the seven reported incidents, use of a weapon was threatened in only two occurrences. Generally, street robberies in West Cambridge concentrate near the heart of Harvard Square, due to the dense foot traffic. In 2004 that was the case in only two of the reported incidents.

- Although there was no increase in **housebreaks** between 2003 and 2004, this neighborhood experienced a significant pattern during the fall that contributed to the higher than normal rate. A pattern of nighttime breaks emerged in June and July. These incidents were concentrated on Brattle Street, running into neighboring Riverside. The suspect in the breaks was entering residences during the night and stole various property, including silverware,



jewelry and car keys, which they would then use to steal the car as well. A suspect was identified in this pattern, and it ceased. Towards the end of the year, multiple incidents were reported on Brattle Street, but these were unrelated incidents. Other areas of multiple incidents, particularly in the second half of the year, include Foster Street and Lakeview Avenue.

- West Cambridge was affected by the trend of Audi headlight thefts that became hot this year. Several victims' vehicles were targeted multiple times for these thefts. There were no other significant patterns in **larceny from motor vehicle** here. Throughout the year, car breaks were lowest during the first quarter and highest during the third, when incidents doubled from those reported in the first quarter.



- Over 50% of **malicious destruction of property** incidents involved motor vehicles. Mid-April there was a small rash of incidents on Mount Auburn Street, where car and business windows were smashed by unknown suspects. The highest number of incidents took place during the second quarter of the year, making up over a third of all incidents. While most business related vandalism took place in Harvard Square, motor vehicle vandalism occurred on neighboring streets to the square. Most of the reported

graffiti was found on Vassal Lane. Only one attempted auto theft was reported in this neighborhood.

- Part of the **auto theft** increase can be attributed to the multi-car theft at a Harvard Square auto rental establishment. Sets of keys were stolen from the establishment and were used to steal six cars mid-September. Sixty-six percent of the stolen autos were recovered by year's end.
- Due to increased efforts by Special Investigations and patrol, **drug arrests** increased from the three reported in 2003. One incident resulted in the arrest of a man caught selling cocaine, but most of the incidents involved the possession of marijuana or other narcotics paraphernalia. Drug activity in this neighborhood is hot in "The Pit" area of Harvard Square, where small crowds congregate.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR WEST CAMBRIDGE AREA TARGET CRIMES					
Crime	1981-1990	Rank '81-'90*	1992-2003	Rank '92-'03*	Rank 2004*
Housebreaks	105	4	36	6	7
Street Robbery	18	7	10	8	10
Auto Theft	105	6	35	10	7
Larceny from MVs	134	3	63	5	6
Malicious Destruction	92	8	72	7	7

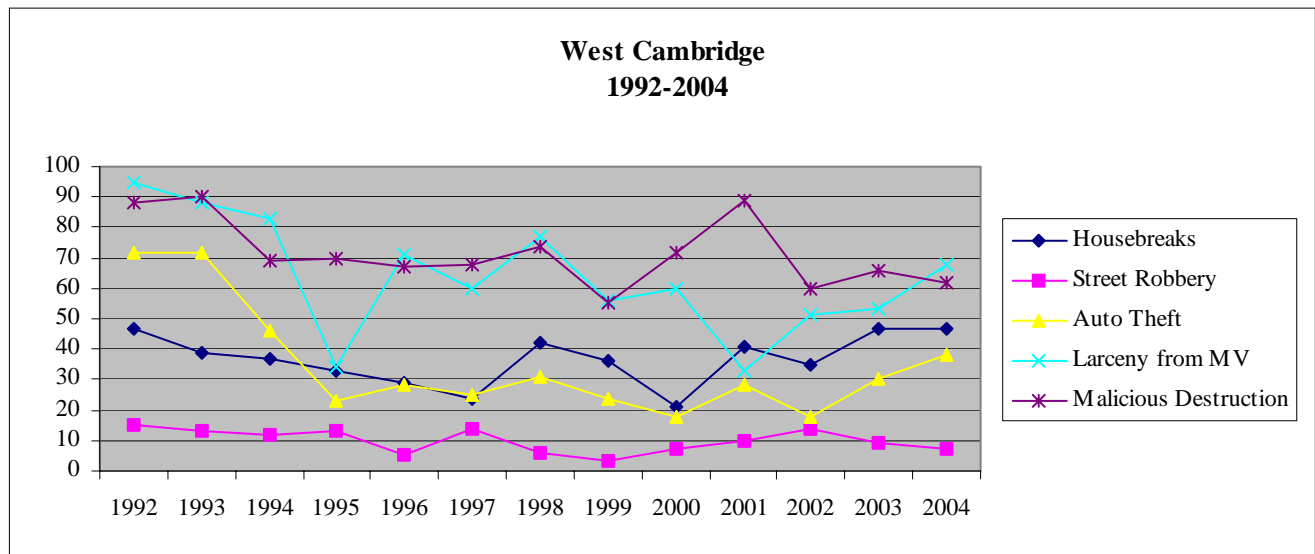
\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

West Cambridge is, geographically, the largest neighborhood in the city. Its east end contains a good portion of Harvard Square, bustling with commercial traffic; its western border is marked by Fresh Pond and Kingsley Park. In between are the beautiful homes of Brattle Street, the expansive Cambridge Cemetery, Mount Auburn Hospital, and half a dozen elementary schools.

*Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the eastern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- Almost all of West Cambridge's target crimes are lower than average, its population is slightly higher than average.
- **Larceny from motor vehicles**, is concentrated in the area bordered by Sparks, Brattle, and Mount Auburn Street. The incidents occur primarily on weekends, late at night. The related crime of **malicious destruction** registers at average levels.
- **Housebreaks**, once a pressing problem, have been virtually eliminated. Summertime residential burglary patterns, once the scourge of West Cambridge, have not appeared for years. The 2001 total broke the trend of the lowest number of reported incidents over the past three decades.
- **Bicycle theft** patterns strike the Harvard Square area each spring and summer. The large number of bicycles parked in the area lead to high levels of theft. **Larcenies from Persons** become a problem every spring and summer around the Square and in its many commercial establishments.



## 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

No sprees emerged among the nine **street robberies** in West Cambridge, although a majority of the incidents were in the Harvard Square area around the 1400 block of Massachusetts Avenue. • **Housebreaks** increased slightly in 2003 in the neighborhood. In nearly a quarter of the incidents, the doors of the residence were left unlocked. • There were small sprees of **malicious destruction of property** reported in the first four days of the year (likely a result of raucous New Year's celebrations) and mid-February along Aberdeen Avenue. • All three **drug arrests** were for possession with intent to distribute, including the arrest of a man smoking crystal meth in the restroom of the Harvard Co-op at 1400 Mass Ave. • Six of the 30 **auto thefts** in West Cambridge occurred on Mount Auburn St. A small spree resulted in four Honda Accords stolen on a single day in April. Nineteen of the 30 cars stolen in the neighborhood were eventually recovered. • The breaking of a window was the most common means of committing **larceny from a motor vehicle** in West Cambridge in 2003. Many of the incidents involved the theft of valuable items such as laptops and wallets left in the automobile, likely in plain sight. Fifteen of the 53 incidents took place on two of the neighborhood's major streets, Brattle and Mount Auburn.